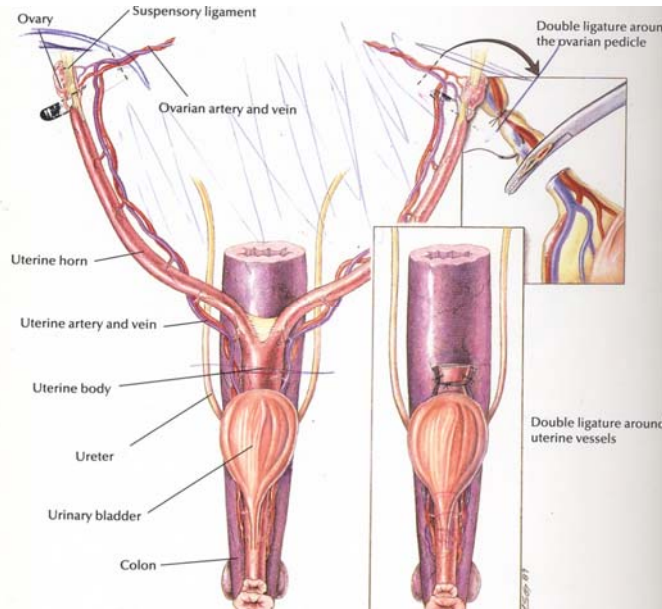


GRAND
PET CARE CENTERS
 1-800-FOR-A-VET

Heat/ Estrus

Heat is defined as the time during the reproductive cycle when your female pet displays interest in mating and has probably ovulated or is about to ovulate. Estrus begins when your cat or dog allows the male to mount and breed, and ends when her receptive behavior ceases

Dog: The average heat cycle for a dog is approximately 3 weeks. Average time between heat periods is 6-7 months but some dogs can cycle as early as every 4 months.



Cat: When left intact, cats tend to come into "heat" once every 3-4 weeks, which can last for up to a week



Should I have my pet spayed if she is in "heat" ?:

While we prefer to perform the surgery on females not currently in heat, we most certainly spay your pet even when in heat or pregnant. Spaying when in heat is far better than waiting and perhaps having other serious consequences, such as unwanted pregnancy, disease or illness contracted from males she may be seeking to mate with.

Will there be an additional charge for a "in heat" or pregnant pet?:

In all females' dogs and cats the blood supply to the ovary is extensive so a special technique is utilized to prevent hemorrhaging (i.e. internal bleeding). Most times when your pet is "in heat" there is a **significant increase of the blood supply** to both the uterus and the ovaries so we have to be extra careful and often add extra ligatures to prevent bleeding. In addition, the uterus and ovaries can be **much larger in size (i.e. swollen or engorged)** forcing us to widen the abdominal incision. **Hence, the surgery is likely to take a little longer than it normally does.**

Our decision to add an additional charge for spaying a pet that is in heat, to our normal spay charge, will be based solely on the condition of your pets' reproductive tract as indicated above and how much additional surgical-time is required as a result.

-----We truly appreciate your understanding in this regard-----